

Northwest Rural Public Power District

Hay Springs, NE 69347

October 2024

Girls Raising Hounds to Invest in Their Education

Loving on puppies is more than just a passion for a couple of rural Hay Springs girls. It's now a means for them to further their college education. Although she is just a sixth grader, Willow Frink, is very goal oriented and has been for several years now.

A few years ago, she and her sister Cedar were pleading their parents, EJ and Teresa, for a puppy. "When Willow was eight, she asked us if she could get a puppy," said Teresa, a CSC Rangeland Management Professor since 2008. "After a few months of many, many, long discussions, and her conducting some in depth research on breeds, she decided on a basset. She learned that they have a very kind disposition, that are great family dogs, they get along with other dogs, cats and farm animals, they are kind and welcoming to all people, they have quirky and unique personalities, and they are super laid back. EJ and I had both had hounds in our adult life, and always really liked them, so a basset hound seemed like a great fit for our family."

The Frinks found their current place in the country south of Hay Springs after living in a small house in Chadron since 2013. They lived in Hemingford for a few years after Willow was born and rented their house out, but then returned to Chadron. "We really wanted to find a place in the country so our children could grow up in a place where they could have chickens, pigs, horses and milk cows," explained Teresa... in which they have reached their goal!

EJ, who grew up in Wanblee, S.D., is self-employed as a yearling background feeder, and also has a few cows.

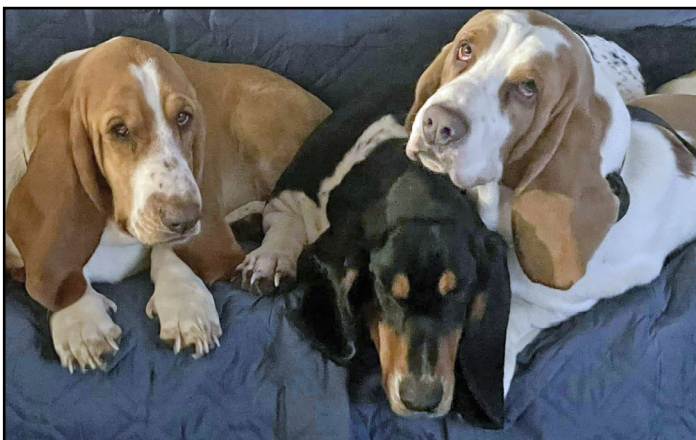


EJ and Teresa Frink with their daughters, Willow (left) and Cedar with puppies from two different litters and mama Betty Ford Frink (bff), their first basset hound. The Frinks live south of Hay Springs along Hwy. 87.

Willow purchased "Betty" in March of 2022 and she instantly became part of the Frink family. "Willow is the one that came up with the idea of breeding Betty. She is, and always has been, very goal orientated and conscientious about saving money for her future, so she is the one that decided she wanted to breed and raise bassets to begin saving money so she could attend college," explained Teresa. So her parents agreed to her idea, as long as SHE was the one doing the work (i.e., feeding, cleaning, walking, bathing, etc.) and she paid for the expenses (e.g., dog food, vaccines, dewormer, bedding, etc.).

After some searching, they found a wonderful breeder in Wyoming. She was very helpful and agreed to let her stud, a lemon and white basset named Dash the Flash, breed Betty (The Frinks were elated when we were able to later purchase Dash in summer 2023).

When Betty had her first litter, Willow, along with her very excited little sister, demonstrated that this was something that she (they) would put the work in to do. During the birthing process, she cleaned the noses, mouths and bodies of the newborn pups, weighed them, determined gender, took pictures to document birth order and situated them on a heating pad to keep them warm until Betty finished whelping. **(Continued on Page 2)**



Emma, Betty and Dash cuddle together for a photo.

Rain & Snow Bassets--

(Continued from Page 1)

Willow was also a great assistant to Betty making sure she had plenty of water throughout the process, and occasionally fed her a little vanilla ice cream to keep her energy levels high. After all of the nine puppies were born, she cooked Betty a big pot of brown rice, hamburger and peas to feed Betty over the next few days.

In addition to raising puppies, both the girls are very active in 4-H and raising animals, so this was just second nature to care for a litter of bassets.

Later, an opportunity arose for Cedar to purchase an AKC registered lemon and white female named Emma Lou Who. She also wanted to have her bred and raise puppies. "Both of the girls are responsible for taking care of the puppies from each of their respective females," said Teresa.

The girls, Willow Rain, 11, and Cedar Snow, 8, operate their basset adventure under the name "Rain and Snow Bassets" which can be found on Facebook.

WHAT'S SPECIAL AND UNIQUE about bassets according to Willow. "Definitely their attitude and personality!" Cedar responded, "They are really lazy, they are very funny and super cute."

EJ said, "I think they are great because they love to cuddle and I never have to worry about cleaning up a mess off the kitchen floor."

The breeding dogs are tested for the major genetic diseases of basset hounds and kept up to date on all vaccinations and preventative medications. All puppies are given two doses (one dose at 6 weeks and another dose at 8 weeks) of Canine Distemper Virus, Canine Adenovirus type 1, Canine Adenovirus type 2, Canine Parainfluenza Virus, Canine Parvovirus, Canine



Cedar's basset, "Emma" with a litter of pups earlier this spring. All of the pups found great homes.

Cedar Snow (left) and Willow Rain Frink with two of the female bassets with the sign their aunt made for them. Willow is with "Betty" and Cedar with 'Hazel' who the Frinks took back in after their own had health issues. She will be rehomed in October.



Coronavirus and strongid dewormer prior to going to their new homes.

The puppies usually begin the weaning process around 5 weeks. "We begin by feeding the puppies a gruel of ground puppy food and goat milk replacer. The mothers still have access to the puppies to clean them, socialize with them, and have short nursing bouts until they are completely weaned at seven weeks old," said Teresa. 'Rain and Snow Bassets' have raised six litters from Betty, Emma and Dash.

Betty is not registered but Dash and Emma are both registered with the American Kennel Club. All of the litters from Dash and Emma are registered when they are born.

"The hardest part about raising puppies is telling them goodbye. We spend so much time with the puppies and typically develop nick names for them based on physical characteristics or personality quirks. When they go to their new families, it can be hard to let them go, but we quickly remember that they have been placed with great families who love the breed as much as we do. It is so rewarding and heart-warming to see the pictures as the puppies grow, and to hear the testimonies of the families about the joy the pups have brought them, and in some cases, the healing of broken hearts from the loss of a family member," ended Teresa.

Thus far the puppies have gone to their new homes in Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Kansas, Oklahoma, Wyoming, Colorado and Montana. The Frinks often try to meet the families part way.

For more information about Rain and Snow Bassets, visit their Facebook page or call Teresa at 308.430.8589.



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Electrical Hazards Come With Seasonal Changes

As the crisp autumn air settles in, many homeowners are readying their homes for the cooler months ahead. However, with the seasonal changes come unique electrical hazards that, if overlooked, can pose significant risks to your home and family. Ensuring that your home is prepared for fall's electrical challenges is crucial to maintaining a safe environment. Below is a comprehensive Fall Electrical Safety Checklist to help you mitigate these risks and keep your home secure throughout the season.

Inspect and Maintain Heating Systems

With the colder months approaching, your home's heating system will soon be in high demand. It's essential to ensure that all heating equipment, including electric furnaces, space heaters, and baseboard heaters, are functioning correctly and safely.

Check for Damage: Inspect all heating devices for any signs of wear and tear. Look for frayed cords, damaged plugs, and any visible signs of damage to the unit itself. If you notice any defects, refrain from using the device until it has been repaired or replaced.

Space Heater Safety: Always place space heaters on a flat, stable surface away from flammable materials such as curtains, furniture, or bedding. Ensure that the space heater has an automatic shut-off feature in case it tips over.

Furnace Inspection: Have your electric furnace serviced by a professional before the season begins. Regular maintenance can prevent potential hazards and ensure your system operates

efficiently throughout the fall and winter.

Test Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Your home's smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are critical in detecting potential dangers before they escalate. As you prepare for fall, take the time to ensure these devices are in good working order.

Test Alarms Monthly: Press the test button on your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to ensure they are functioning correctly. Replace batteries at least once a year, or immediately if the alarm begins to chirp.

Replace Old Detectors: Smoke detectors typically have a lifespan of 10 years, while carbon monoxide detectors last about 7 years. If your detectors are older than this, replace them with new ones to maintain optimal safety.

Install Detectors on Every Floor: To maximize safety, make sure you have detectors installed on every floor of your home, especially near bedrooms and in hallways.

Inspect Electrical Outlets and Cords

Electrical outlets and cords can be a source of danger if not properly maintained. Over time, they can wear out, leading to potential fire hazards.

Check for Overloading: Avoid overloading outlets with multiple high-wattage appliances, which can cause overheating and increase the risk of fire. Use power strips with surge protection to manage multiple devices safely.

(Continued on Page 5)

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Electrical Hazards--

(Continued from Page 4)

Inspect Cords: Regularly check all electrical cords for signs of fraying, cracking, or other damage. If you find a damaged cord, replace it immediately. Never run cords under rugs or furniture, as this can cause them to overheat.

Childproof Outlets: If you have young children in the home, install tamper-resistant outlet covers to prevent accidental electrical shocks.

Prepare for Power Outages

Fall storms can lead to unexpected power outages. Being prepared can help you navigate these situations safely and comfortably.

Backup Power: Consider investing in a portable generator or an uninterruptible power supply (UPS) for essential devices like medical equipment. Ensure that you follow all safety guidelines when using a generator, such as keeping it outside and away from windows.

Stock Up on Supplies: Keep a supply of flashlights, batteries, and portable chargers on hand. Avoid using candles during power outages, as they can pose a fire risk.

Surge Protection: Install surge protectors to safeguard your appliances and electronics from potential damage caused by sudden power surges when electricity is restored.

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NORTHWEST RURAL ACTIVITIES

Gordon-Rushville Mustangs

Tues., Oct. 1 VB (C-JV-V) at Chadron, 4 p.m.
FB (MS) vs. Bennett Co., 5 p.m.

Thurs., Oct. 3 VB (V) WTC Tourney at Kimball
 CC (MS-HS) at Bayard, 2:30 p.m.
G-R HS Parent Teacher Conf., 4-7 p.m.

Fri., Oct. 4 **FB (V) vs. Kearney Catholic, 6 p.m.**

Sat., Oct. 5 VB (V) Mile High Invite at Lead-Deadwood

Mon., Oct. 7 Girls Golf Districts, tba
 CC (MS-V) at WTC in Mitchell, 11 a.m.

Tues., Oct. 8 FB (MS) at Valentine, 4 p.m.
VB (MS) vs. Alliance St. Agnes, 4 p.m.
Parent-Teacher Conf, 4-6:30 p.m.

Wed. Oct. 9 Chadron State Scholastic Contest

Thurs., Oct. 10 VB (MS) at Hay Springs, 2 p.m.
GES P-T Conf., 4 p.m.
VB (JV-V) vs. Valentine, 5 p.m.

Fri., Oct. 11 FB (V) at Hershey, 6 p.m.

Sat., Oct. 12 **VB (C) GR Invite, all day**

Mon., Oct. 14 FFA D-12 Livestock Judging Contest
 at Hemingford, all day
NO SCHOOL - Teacher Inservice
 Girls State Golf, tba
FB (JV) vs. Valentine, 5 p.m.
Board of Education Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

Oct. 15-16 **Dental Screenings**

Tues., Oct. 15 **VB (MS) vs. Bridgeport, 4 p.m.**

Thurs., Oct. 17 CC Districts, tba
 VB (C-JV-V) at Rapid City Christian, 4 p.m.

Fri., Oct. 18 **End of Quarter - Half Day**
FB (V) vs. Valentine, 6 p.m.

Sat., Oct. 19 VB (V) Valentine Invite, all day

Tues., Oct. 22 VB (JV-V) at Morrill, 4 p.m.
P-T Conferences, 4-8 p.m.

Fri., Oct. 25 State CC at Kearney
FALL BREAK - No School
 FB (V) at Amberst, 6 p.m.

Oct. 28-29 VB Sub-Districts, tbd

Nov. 2 VB District Finals

Mon., Nov. 4 **National Honor Society Induction, 6 p.m.**

Tues., Nov. 5 BB (MS) at Crawford, 3 p.m.

Nov. 6-9 State Volleyball at Lincoln

Thurs., Nov. 7 **WR (MS) GR Invite, 1 p.m.**

Sat., Nov. 9 **GBB (MS) GR Invite, all day**
GRHS One Act, 7 p.m.

CrawfordRams

Tues., Oct. 1 VB (JH) at St. Agnes, 3 p.m.
 VB (JV-V) at Morrill, 5 p.m.

Thurs., Oct. 3 CC at Bayard Chimney Rock Golf
 Course, 2:30

Fri., Oct. 4 **Parent-Senior Night, time tbd**
FB (JH) vs. Hay Springs, 2 p.m.
VB (JH) vs. Hay Springs, 2 p.m.
VB (JV-V) vs. Hay Springs, 4 p.m.
FB (V) vs. Hay Springs, 7 p.m.

Sat., Oct. 5 VB (JH) at Hemingford, 9 a.m.
 VB (V) at Morrill, 9 a.m.

Mon., Oct. 7 VB (JH) at Crawford Dual, 3 p.m.



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NORTHWEST RURAL ACTIVITIES

Tues., Oct. 8 FB (JH) at Hemingford, 4 p.m.
 VB (JV-V) at Hemingford, 6, 7 p.m.
VB (V) Tri vs. Cody-Kil, 4 p.m.; Banner Co./Cody-Kil, 5 p.m.; Craw vs. Ban, 6 p.m.
 Thurs., Oct. 10 CC (V-Girls) at Hillside Golf Course, 3 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 11 VB (JV-V) vs. Minatare, 4, 5 p.m.
FB (V) vs. Minatare, 7 p.m.
Mon., Oct. 14 FB (JV) vs. Edgemont, 5 p.m.
 Tues., Oct. 15 VB (V) at Oelrichs, 5 p.m.
 Fri., Oct. 18 FB (V) at Arthur Co., 2 p.m.
 Sat., Oct. 19 VB (V) PanCo at Hemingford, 9 a.m.
 Mon., Oct. 21 VB (JV) Quad a Chadron, 4 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 25 VB (V) vs. Sioux Co., 5 p.m.
FB (V) vs. Sioux Co., 7 p.m.
 Fri., Nov. 1 WR (JH) at Banner Co., 9 a.m.
Tues., Nov. 5 GBB (JH) vs. Gordon-Rushville, 3 p.m.
Thurs., Nov. 7 WR (JH) vs. Gordon-Rushville, 1 p.m.
 Sat., Nov. 9 GBB (JH) at Gordon-Rushville Quad, 8 a.m.

Thurs., Oct. 10 FB (JV) at Hay Springs, 4 p.m.
VB (JV-V) vs. Crawford, 6, 7 p.m.
 Fri., Oct. 11 VB (V) at Lakota Tech Invite, 4 p.m.
End of First Quarter
FB (V) vs. Bridgeport Jr-Sr., 7 p.m.
 Mon., Oct. 14 FFA District Livestock & Poultry Judging
 VB (JH) vs. Hay Springs, 4 p.m.
School Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
 Tues., Oct. 15 VB (JV-V) at Bayard, 5, 6 p.m.
Wed., Oct 16 P-T Conference, 1-7 p.m.
Oct. 16-18 NO SCHOOL - Fall Break
 Thurs., Oct. 17 CC (V) Districts, tba
 Fri., Oct. 18 FB (V) at Perkins Co., 7 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 19 VB (V) PanCo at Hemingford, 9 a.m.
Mon., Oct. 21 VB (V) vs. Kimball Invite, 4 p.m.
 Oct. 23-26 FFA National Convention
 Fri., Oct. 25 State CC (V) at Kearney
 Mon., Oct. 28 Sub-District VB, tba
Tues., Oct. 29 FFA Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
 Wed., Oct. 30 FCCLA District Leadership Conf.
 Sat., Nov. 2 District VB, tba
 Wed., Nov. 6 PAC Music Clinic, Hay Springs
 Nov. 7-9 State Volleyball at Lincoln

Hemingford Bobcats

Tues., Oct. 1 **VB (JH) vs. Hyannis, 2 p.m.**
FB (JH) vs. Hyannis, 3 p.m.
Wed., Oct. 2 FFA Area Land Judging Day
 Thurs., Oct. 3 VB (V) WTC at Kimball, 10 a.m.
 CC (V) at Chimney Rock, 2:30 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 4 FB (V) vs. Sutherland, 7 p.m.
 Sat., Oct. 5 VB (JH) at Hemingford (Sioux Co.), 9 a.m.
 FFA Practice Livestock Judging
 Mon., Oct. 7 CC (V) at Kimball, 9 a.m.
VB (JH) vs. Crawford, 3 p.m.
FB (JH) vs. Crawford, 4 p.m.


Chadron Cardinals

Tuesday, Oct. 1 SB (JV-V) at Scottsbluff, 4 p.m., 6 p.m.
VB (C-JV-V) vs. Gord-Rush., 4, 5, 6 p.m.
SB (JV-V) at Scottsbluff, 4, 6 p.m.
 Wed., Oct. 2 FF District Contest at Scottsbluff
Thurs., Oct. 3 VB (7th) vs. Scottsbluff, 4 p.m.
 VB (8th) at Scottsbluff, 4 p.m.



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NRPPD ACTIVITIES

Fri., Oct. 4	FB (MS) at Hot Springs, 5 p.m. CC (V-MS) at Scottsbluff, 1 p.m. VB (V) at Scottsbluff Invite, 3 p.m. FBLA, Commons, 5 p.m. Soup Fundraiser FB (V) vs. Chase Co., 6 p.m.	Mon., Oct. 7 Tues., Oct. 8 Wed., Oct. 9	FB (JV) vs. Hemingford, 4 p.m. Pre-ACT (10th) CSC Scholastic Day Hawk Talk at Senior Center, 8 a.m.
Sat., Oct. 5	FFA Livestock Judging Contest at Bridgeport VB (MS) at Torrington, 9 a.m. Girls SB at Imperial Tri., 12 p.m.	Thurs., Oct. 10	End of Semester VB (JH) vs. Gordon-Rushville, 2 p.m. CC (Boys) at Hillside Golf Course, 3 p.m. VB (V) vs. Lakota Tech, Hemingfd, 4:15 p.m.
Mon., Oct. 7	Girls Golf Districts, tba NO SCHOOL VB (MS-7th) at Alliance, 4 p.m. VB (MS-8th) at Chadron, 4 p.m. FB (V) vs. Alliance, 5:30 p.m.	Fri., Oct. 11	FB & VB (JH) at Cody-Kilgore, 10:30 & 11 a.m. FB & VB (V) at Cody-Kilg, FB-1 p.m./VB-3:30 VB (V) at Anselmo-Merna Tourney, 9 a.m.
Tues., Oct. 8	Girls Golf Districts, tba VB (C-JV-V) vs. Rapid Christian, 4, 5, 6 p.m. FB (7th-8th) at Alliance, 5, 6:30 p.m.	Sat., Oct. 12 Mon. Oct. 14	Board Meeting VB (JH) at Hemingford, 4 p.m. VB (V) at Morrill Tri (Banner Co.), 4 p.m. Music - Soprano/Alto Day at CSC CC Districts, tbd Music - Quarterly Assembly, 3:15 p.m.
Thurs., Oct. 10	CC (MS-V) at Sidney Hillside, 3 p.m. VB (7th) vs. Gering, 4 p.m. VB (8th) at Gering, 5 p.m.	Tues., Oct. 15 Wed., Oct. 16 Thurs., Oct. 17	VB (V) vs. Minatare, 4:30 p.m. FB (V) vs. Minatare, 7 p.m. (Pink Out) VB (V) PanCo at Hemingford, 9 a.m. VB (V) vs. Bridgeport, 5 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 11	FB (V) at Alliance, 7 p.m.	Fri., Oct. 18	K-3 Concert, 6:30 p.m. FB (V) vs. Arthur Co., 6 p.m. (Salute the Troops)
Sat., Oct. 12	FB (MS) vs. Sidney, 7th-9 a.m., 8th-10 a.m. VB (C) at Gordon-Rushville Tourney, 9 a.m. FB (V) at Alliance Tourney, 10 a.m.	Sat., Oct. 19 Tues., Oct. 22 Thurs., Oct. 24 Fri., Oct. 25	VB Sub-Districts, tba PanCo Music Clinic FB 1st Rd. Playoffs WR (JH) at Banner Co. Tourney, 9 a.m. VB District Finals FFA Careers in Ag Day at Scottsbluff State Volleyball Girls BB (JH) at Sioux County, 5 p.m. FB Quarters Girls BB (JH) at Gordon-Rush Quad, 8 a.m. WR (JH) at Scottsbluff Invite, 9 a.m.
Mon., Oct. 14	FFA District Contest at Hemingford Girls State Golf, tba	Oct. 28-29 Wed., Oct. 30 Fri., Nov. 1	
Oct. 14-15	FB (JV) at Scottsbluff, 5:30 p.m.	Sat., Nov. 2 Wed., Nov. 6 Nov. 6-9	
Tues., Oct. 15	VB (C-JV-V) vs. Sidney, 4, 5, 6 p.m.	Thurs., Nov. 7 Fri., Nov. 8 Sat., Nov. 9	
Wed., Oct. 16	FFA State Land Judging, Norfolk		
Oct. 16-18	State SB at Hastings		
Fri., Oct. 18	End of Quarter FB (V) at Gering, 7 p.m.		
Sat., Oct. 19	VB (JV) at Alliance Invite, 9 a.m. VB (V) at Valentine Invite, 9:30 a.m.		
Mon., Oct. 21	SB State Tourney at Omaha VB (C) Home Invite, 4 p.m. VB (JV) at Alliance, 5 p.m. FB (JV) vs. Gering, 5:30 p.m. VB (V) at Alliance, 6 p.m.		
Oct. 22-	FFA National Convention in Indianapolis		
Tues., Oct. 22	7-12 Band Concert, HS Aud., 7 p.m.		
Thurs., Oct. 24	6-12 Vocal Music, HS Aud., 7 p.m.		
Fri., Oct. 25	State CC at UNK, tba FB (V) vs. Sidney, Parents Night		
Oct. 28-29-2	VB Sub-Districts, tba		
Fri., Nov. 1	FB Playoffs, tba		
Sat., Nov. 2	Old West Choir Festival in Scottsbluff		
Nov. 6-9	State VB at UNL		
Thurs., Nov 7	WR (MS) at Gordon-Rush., 1 p.m.		
Fri., Nov. 8	FB Playoffs		
Hay Springs Hawks			
Wed., Oct. 2	FFA Area Land Judging at Scottsbluff		
Thurs., Oct. 3	CC (JH-V) at Chimney Rock in Bayard, 2:30 Parent-Teacher Conf., 4:15-8 p.m.		
Fri., Oct. 4	FB & VB (JH), at Crawford, 2, 2 p.m. VB & FB (V), at Crawford, 4, 7 p.m.		
Sat., Oct. 5	VB (V) at Morrill Invite, 9 a.m.		



Northwest Rural Public Power District



Advantages of Electric Snow Blowers

As we cruise out of the summer into the final quarter of the year, it's time to start preparing for winter's worst. If you tend to see significant snowfall in the colder months of the year, you should ditch that old snow shovel and switch to a snowblower, which can carve walkways through snow banks and clear driveways quickly, without putting too much strain on your back.



Electric snowblowers, though less powerful than gas-powered models, are more capable than ever. A cordless electric blower can clear a path up to 2 feet wide through as much as 20 inches of snow. They're also easier to start, require less maintenance, and run relatively quiet, all without spewing exhaust fumes. If you're looking for the quickest, least labor-intensive way to dig out after a big snowstorm, this is it.

According to Popular Mechanics....

Best Overall: Ego Power+ SNT2405 Self-Propelled Two-Stage Snowblower

Best Value: Greenworks 40V 20-Inch Cordless Single-Stage Snowblower

Best Single-Stage Snowblower: Toro Flex-Force 60-Volt Max 21-Inch Power Clear Single-Stage Snowblower

Best Two-Stage Snowblower: Ryobi 40V Brushless Whisper Series Two-Stage Cordless Snowblower

Best Battery Life: Ego Power+ SNT2103 21-Inch 56-Volt Cordless Snowblower

What to Look For in an Electric Snowblower

Picking an electric snowblower, by and large, is an exercise in choosing between convenience and power. Battery powered blowers do not have as much snow-moving power as their gas-powered cousins: They're easy to start and to charge, but generally offer shorter run times and limited power.

Given that, you should start your snowblower search by taking stock of the areas you'll need to clear, and how much snow you expect to see. If you usually see snows under a foot and only need to free up a few walking paths and a short driveway, electric is the way to go. If you need to clear a long, multi-car drive, or expect to get more than a foot of snow in a single storm, you should look at a more powerful gas snowblower.

Single-Stage Vs. Dual-Stage

There are two types of snowblowers for the homeowners, based on the number of "stages" in the mechanical process they use to collect and distribute snow.

- Single-stage snowblowers have an auger that pulls the snow into a large intake at the front of the snowblower, and propels

it out of a chute mounted to the top of the machine. Single-stage blowers, also frequently referred to as "snow throwers," are small, lightweight and easy to maneuver, making them ideal for clearing light snowfall and smaller driveways and walks.

Most electric snowblowers feature a single-stage mechanism. The process requires less energy, and allows battery-powered models to run long enough so you can work through larger tasks without recharging.

- Dual-stage snowblowers, as the name suggests, have a two-stage process for collecting and expelling snow. Like single-stage models, they have an auger that pulls snow into the intake. The dual-stage snowblower follows up by running that snow through an impeller, mashing it up before it goes out through the chute.

The one-two punch of auger and impeller allows a two-stage snowblower to remove more snow quicker, and throw it a longer distance. That makes them perfect for large driveways. That said, they are larger and heavier than single-stage machines, so they may not be able to maneuver around narrow walking paths as easily.

Clearing Width and Depth

The width and depth of a snowblower's intake determines how much snow it can move with each pass, and thus, how long it takes you to get the job done. Most single-stage electric snowblowers have a clearing width of around 20 inches, and a clearing depth of around 8 inches. That's good for carving out walks and medium-sized areas. Some heavy-duty two-stage electric snowblowers can

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Electric Snow Blowers--

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remove a 24-inch wide and 20-inch deep swath of snow, which will make quick work of a large driveway.

Throwing Distance

Throwing distance refers to how far a snowblower can launch snow out of the chute. This gives you a sense of how to plan when and how you'll dispose of the snow in your path. The average single-stage snowblowers typically have a short throwing distance—around 25 feet. Unsurprisingly, a two-stage snowblower can send its snow as far as 50 feet.

Snowblowers typically have a throttle that allows you to change its mechanical speed, which will adjust how far it throws your snow. There are also controls that allow you to rotate the chute to change the direction of the flow of snow. If you can map out your snowblowing route, check and make sure your snowblower throws the snow far enough to keep it out of your way until it melts.

Power Source

Most electric snowblowers receive power from multiple large rechargeable batteries, which allow them to produce nearly as much power as a gas snowblower. They generally can't run for a very long time, though: On average, you should expect a battery-powered snowblower to run for about 45 minutes on a single charge. You can extend that time if you have multiple batteries,

but the low run time still caps on how much ground they can cover.

Though we largely consider them to be obsolete, some manufacturers also still produce corded electric snowblowers, which plug into a standard electrical outlet. They're often cheaper than battery-powered models, and run as long as you need them to. However, having a power cord substantially reduces their range: You will likely need to purchase an extension cord to extend its reach slightly beyond the length of the area you need to clear. No matter how much slack you have, though, the cable makes the whole process a little more awkward.

"Cordless snowblowers are easier, better and safer to use," says Popular Mechanics test editor Brad Ford. "Corded is old, out of date tech in most cases."

They're also limited to smaller, 15-amp motors that run on the power an outlet can provide. That usually translates to narrower clearing widths, shallower clearing depths, and shorter throw distances. Unless you have a very tight budget, we highly recommend going with a battery-powered electric snow-

National October Days

- Oct. 1: Fire Pup Day, Pumpkin Spice Day, Black Dog Day
- Oct. 2: Walk to School Day, Pumpkin Seed Day.
- Oct. 3: Techies Day, Boyfriend Day, Body Language Day.
- Oct. 4: World Smile Day, Taco Day, Golf Lover's Day.
- Oct. 5: National Do Something Nice Day, Rhode Island Day.
- Oct. 6: Coaches Day, Noodle Day, German-American Day.
- Oct. 7: Chocolate Pretzel Day, Frappe Day, LED Light Day.
- Oct. 8: International Off-Road Day, Pierogi Day, Hero Day.
- Oct. 9: Pro-Life Cupcake Day, Moldy Cheese Day.
- Oct. 10: Take Your Parents to Lunch Day, Angel Food Cake Day.
- Oct. 11: National Sausage Pizza Day, Pulaski Memorial Day.
- Oct. 12: National Farmer's Day, Gumbo Day, Savings Day.
- Oct. 13: Clergy Appreciation Day, Breast Cancer Awareness Day.
- Oct. 14: National Kick Butt Day, Columbus Day, Dessert Day.
- Oct. 15: Cheese Curd Day, I Love Lucy Day, Natl Grouch Day.
- Oct. 16: National Sports Day, Bra Day USA, Boss's Day.
- Oct. 17: National Edge Day, Mulligan Day, Pasta Day.
- Oct. 18: Chocolate Cupcake Day, Mammography Day.
- Oct. 19: Whole Hog Barbecue Day, Kentucky Day, .
- Oct. 20: Brandied Fruit Day, Chicken and Waffles Day.
- Oct. 21: Apple Day, Pumpkin Cheesecake Day.
- Oct. 22: National Make a Dog's Day, Color Day, Nut Day.
- Oct. 23: National Horror Movie Day, Boston Cream Pie Day.
- Oct. 24: National Bologna Day, Food Day.
- Oct. 25: Greasy Foods Day, Breadstick Day, "Chucky" Day.
- Oct. 26: Chicken Fried Steak Day, Tennessee Day, Pumpkin Day.
- Oct. 27: Black Cat Day, American Beer Day, Mother-In-Law Day.
- Oct. 28: National First Responders Day, Chocolate Day.
- Oct. 29: Oatmeal Day, Hermit Day, National Cat Day
- Oct. 30: Wicked Day, Candy Corn Day, Publicist Day.
- Oct. 31: Caramel Apple Day, Halloween, Knock Knock Joke Day.

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Recipes



Do you have a recipe you would like to share with our readers?

Please send to hiphop@gpcom.net

Football Cheese Ball

- 2 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
- ¼ cup finely chopped green onions
- 2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- ½ (1.25 ounce) package taco seasoning mix
- ½ slice American cheese, sliced into strips

Mix together cream cheese, Cheddar cheese, green onions, Worcestershire sauce, and taco seasoning mix in a large bowl until well combined. Press cheese mixture into a ball and transfer to a sheet of plastic wrap.

Use the plastic wrap to press cheese ball into the shape of a football by flattening ball and rounding each end. Place cheese football on a plate and arrange American cheese strips on the top like laces. Cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours before serving.

Remove cheese ball from the refrigerator 30 minutes before serving.

* * * * *

Asian Lettuce Wraps

- 16 Boston Bibb or butter lettuce leaves
- 1 pound lean ground beef
- 1 tablespoon cooking oil
- 1 large onion, chopped
- ¼ cup hoisin sauce
- 2 cloves fresh garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon rice wine vinegar
- 2 teaspoons minced pickled ginger
- 1 dash Asian chile pepper sauce, or to taste (Optional)
- 1 (8 ounce) can water chestnuts, drained and finely chopped
- 1 bunch green onions, chopped
- 2 teaspoons Asian (dark) sesame oil



Rinse whole lettuce leaves and pat dry, being careful not to tear them; set aside.

Heat oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add beef; cook and stir until browned and crumbly, 5 to 7 minutes. Drain and discard grease; transfer beef to a bowl. Add onion to the same skillet; cook and stir until just tender, 5 to 7 minutes.

Stir in hoisin sauce, garlic, soy sauce, vinegar, ginger, and chile pepper sauce until well combined. Add water chestnuts,

green onions, sesame oil, and cooked beef; cook and stir until the onions just begin to wilt, about 2 minutes.

Arrange lettuce leaves around the outer edge of a large serving platter; spoon beef mixture in the center.

* * * * *

Chocolate Chip Pumpkin Bread

- 1 ¾ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 ¼ teaspoons kosher salt
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 ½ teaspoons ground cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon ground ginger
- ¼ teaspoon ground cloves
- ¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1 (15-ounce) can pumpkin puree (NOT pumpkin pie filling)
- ½ cup white sugar
- ¾ cup packed light brown sugar
- ½ cup vegetable oil
- 2 tablespoons milk
- 2 large eggs
- ½ cup dark or semi-sweet chocolate chips
- ¼ cup pumpkin seeds

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Butter a 9x5-inch loaf pan. Whisk flour, salt, baking soda, cinnamon, ginger, cloves, and nutmeg together in a bowl.

In another bowl, combine pumpkin, white sugar, brown sugar, vegetable oil, milk, and eggs. Whisk together until smooth.

Add the flour mixture, and whisk in gently until the flour almost disappears. Stir in the chocolate chips and pumpkin seeds until evenly distributed.

Use a spatula to transfer batter into the prepared loaf pan. Tap the pan on the table a few times to bring air bubbles to the surface.

Bake in the preheated oven until a toothpick or wooden skewer inserted near the center comes out clean, 60 to 70 minutes.

Let cool in the pan about 45 minutes; remove to a wire rack to cool completely before slicing.

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Things You Say After 50

- Where the heck is my phone?
 - How did I get this bruise?
 - That isn't my password either? WTH!?:
 - How do they expect you to read this small print?
 - Where did I put my glasses?
 - I don't care if it doesn't look fashionable, it's comfortable?
 - Who the heck is calling at 9:30 p.m.?
 - Does anyone say please and thank you anymore?
 - Geez, how do you throw your body out of whack just sleeping wrong? WTH?
 - This scale can't be right!
 - What the heck is wrong with people nowadays?
 - Why did I come into this room?
- * * * * *
- If walking is good for your health, the postman would be immortal
 - A whale swims all day, only eats fish, only drinks water and is fat.
 - A rabbit only eats vegetables, runs and hops all day long and only lives five years.
 - A tortoise doesn't run and does nothing energetic, yet it lives for 450 years.

And you tell me to exercise! I don't think so!

* * * * *

- When I die, please don't make up lies about me.
- I do not light up a room.
- Everyone doesn't want to be my friend.

- People don't automatically take notice of me.
- I have a smart mouth and two friends.
- Don't make people wonder if they're at the wrong funeral!

* * * * *

Teacher: How old is your father?
 Kid: He is 6 years.
 Teacher: What? How is that possible?
 Kid: He became father only when I was born.

Teacher: Maria, go to the map and find North America.
 Maria: Here it is.
 Teacher: Correct. Now, Class, who discovered America?
 Class: Maria.

Teacher: Glenn, how do you spell 'crocodile?'"
 Glenn: K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L
 Teacher: No, that's wrong
 Glenn: Maybe it is wrong, but you asked me how I spell it.

Teacher: Donald, what is chemical formula for water?
 Donald: HIJKLMNO
 Teacher: What are talking about?
 Donald: Yesterday you said it's H to O.

Teacher: Harold, what do you call a person who keeps on talking when people are no longer interested?
 Harold: A teacher.



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